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JOINT US-PAKISTAN STATEMENT

James L. Buckley, Under Secretary of State for Security Assistance, and a team of U.S. officials from Washington, concluded their ~~five~~-day visit to Pakistan today and will fly back to the United States from Karachi early on the morning of June 16. During his visit, Mr. Buckley met for two days of talks with senior Pakistan leaders and officials, including President Zia-Ul-Haq, Foreign Minister Agha Shahi, Finance Minister Chulam Ishaq Khan, the Secretaries General of the Foreign and Defense Ministries, S. Shah Nawaz and Major General (retd) M. Rahim Khan, Foreign Secretary Riaz Piracha, Lieutenant General Ejaz Azim, Ambassador Designate to Washington, Lieutenant General K. M. Arif, Chief of Staff to the President, and others. Mr. Buckley also visited Murree and refugee camps in the north west frontier province and Baluchistan.

Mr. Buckley's visit, at the invitation of the Pakistan government, was part of the continuing dialogue established between the government of Pakistan and the government of the United States during the last four months and aimed at finding ways for the U.S. to assist Pakistan in meeting the unprecedented threats it faces to its independence and sovereignty as a consequence of the developments in the region. The previous round in these talks had taken place in April when Foreign Minister Agha Shahi headed a team of senior Pakistani officials for talks with Secretaries Haig and Weinberger in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Buckley's official talks in Islamabad, which took place on June 13 and 14, centered on U.S. proposals to provide economic assistance and to facilitate sales of military equipment to Pakistan. Detailed discussion took place on various levels of assistance and the composition of assistance required by Pakistan. The talks also provided an opportunity for discussions of urgent Pakistani military requirements which the United States has agreed to look into with a view toward determining which ones of them the United might be able to satisfy through its foreign military sales (FMS) program.

During the talks, the two sides discussed the serious threat to the region posed by the presence of foreign troops in neighboring Afghanistan. Both sides agreed that a strong and independent Pakistan is in the mutual interest of the United States and Pakistan, as well as of the entire world. Mr. Buckley affirmed American determination to assist Pakistan and to support Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Pakistani side explained Pakistani policies, especially Pakistan's commitment to the principles and purposes of the non-aligned movement and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Both sides agreed that U.S. assistance as proposed is consistent with these principles and with Pakistan's non-aligned status. Mr. Buckley specifically disclaimed any American interest in military bases or in establishing any new alliances.

The United States and Pakistan discussed the dimensions of an overall framework for American efforts to assist Pakistan over the next six years. This includes a program of cash military sales during this year. It also includes a five-year program of economic supporting funds, development assistance, and loans for foreign military sales the total value of which is expected to be approximately three billion dollars -- subject to annual approval by the United States Congress. The multi-year approach is in response to the seriousness and immediacy of the threat to Pakistan's security. The United States has agreed to the sale of F-16 aircraft to Pakistan to assist Pakistan to improve its air defense capabilities; terms, timing, and numbers will be determined in a later meeting, likely to take place in Washington, between Pakistani and American military representatives. The United States agreed also to the early delivery of selected defense equipment urgently needed by the Pakistan defense forces to meet the threats Pakistan faces.

Mr. Buckley invited the government of Pakistan to send a team of military and defense officials to Washington to discuss military equipment needs and availabilities in detail. This visit is expected to take place before the end of June.